

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 06188 031625Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 031445Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1973

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 6188

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT BL

SUBJECT: PEREDA MAKING HEADWAY ON HIS ELECTION PLAN

REF: LA PAZ 6172, LA PAZ 6107

1. NATUSH BUSCH TOLD ME EVENING OF AUGUST 2 THAT PEREDA'S MEETING WITH THE LA PAZ GARRISONS, WHICH NATUSCH ATTENDED, WENT QUITE WELL. THE GARRISONS ASKED FOR SIX DAYS TO GIVE THEIR RESPONSE IN WRITING, BUT PEREDA WAS STILL HOPING THAT ALL NEEDED APPROVALS COULD BE OBTAINED IN TIME FOR AAN AUGUST 6 ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW ELECTIONS. NATUSCH SAID CARLOS ITURRALDE (GOB AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON) HAD BEEN SENT TO SEE BANZER IN SANTA CRUZ TO SOLICIT A NOD OF APPROVAL FROM HIM TO BANZER LOYALISTS IN THE MILITARY ON THE ELECTION PLAN. NATUSCH THOUGHT THAT IF BANZER WOULD COOPERATE THIS WOULD ASSURE SUCCESS BUT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC IN ANY CASE. PEREDA, HE SAID WAS MEETING HIS COMMITMENTS TO US.

2. THIS MORNING EDWIN TAPIA CALLED ME TO SAY THAT PEREDA'S MEETINGS WITH GARRISONS IN LA PAZ, COCHABAMBA, AND SANTA CRUZ HAD GONE WELL AND IT LOOKED GOOD FOR APPROVAL OF ELECTIONS IN LATE 1979 OR VERY EARLY 1980. HE TOO WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT PEREDA COULD MAKE HIS SPEECH ON AUGUST 6 OR, AT THE LATEST, ONE OR TWO DAYS LATER. TAPIA ASKED
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WHETHER WE COULD NOW PROCEED WITH AFFIRMATION OF CONTINUING US-BOLIVIAN RELATIONS. I TOLD HIM I WOULD SEE WHAT I COULD DO.

3. COMMENT. NOTHING IN BOLIVIA IS EVER CERTAIN UNTIL IT HAPPENS. BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT PEREDA IS MAKING PROGRESS, THAT HE IS NOW ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ELECTION ISSUE, AND

A LITTLE BOOST TO HIM NOW WOULD PROBABLY HELP BOTH OUR
BOJECTIVES--NEW ELECTIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND,
ERGO, THE HUMAN RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT IN BOLIVIA. THEREFORE, I
RECOMMEND WE NOW ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S
NOTE AND THAT I BE AUTHORIZED SUBSEQUENTLY TO REQUEST AN
APPOINTMENT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO DISCUSS ON-GOING
BUSINESS, SUCH AS THE PRISONER EXCHANGE TREATY.
BOEKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, REPORTS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAPAZ06188
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840153-1880
Format: TEL
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808103/aaaadiky.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9a180358-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 LA PAZ 6172, 78 LA PAZ 6107
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1549920
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PEREDA MAKING HEADWAY ONHIS ELECTION PLAN
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BL, US, (PEREDA, JUAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9a180358-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014